EXHIBIT 9

International Patent Operation
General Electric Company
3135 Easton Turnpike, W3C, Fairfield, CT 06431 USA
203 373-2211, Fx: 203 373-3991

06 February 1998

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Box PCT
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: RO/US

Re: International Patent Application No. PCT/US97/16812
International Filing Date: 22 October 1997
Applicant: General Electric Company
Applicant's Reference: RD25877/2452

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your Invitation to Correct Defects in the above International Application mailed 24 December 1997. The Applicant requests that the term for response be extended by one month so as to expire 24 February 1998.

In regard to Annex A, the Applicant submits a Power of Attorney signed by all of the individuals named as the applicants in Box III for the United States of America.

In regard to Annex B, the Applicant submits new Sheet 12 to replace Sheet 12 presently on file. New Sheet 12 consists of Table 1.

In regard to Annex C, enclosed are two sheets of formal Drawings consisting of Figs. 1 and 2 to replace the drawings on file.

Also, the Applicant respectfully acknowledges that the Receiving Office has corrected formal defects in the International Application *ex officio.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jay L. Chaskin
Associate International
Patent Counsel

JLC/dkt
Attachment

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 2/6/98

EXHIBIT 6

TABLE 1.

1. Inclusions

Identification Number	Color	Type	Isostatic Press	% N
30	Silver	Ti Sponge	1200°C/1000 Atm./4Hr.	15
49	Yellow	TiN Powder	1200°C/1000 Atm./4Hr.	22

2. Electrodes

Electrode Number	Diameter mm	Length mm	Inclusion Type	Position mm	Weld	Position mm
N3	60	515	49	300	1	255
N4	60	550	30, 30	170, 335	1	255
N5	60	535	30, 49	205, 355	1	215
N6	60	530	49, 30	210, 355	1	215
N7	60	480	30, 49	260, 385	4	85, 175, 330, 430

3. Ingots

Ingot Number	Diameter mm	Length mm	Electrode Number	Melting Current kA	Ultrasonic Indications	Position
2	88	137	N3	4	1	48
3	89	121	N4	5-7	1	36
4	86	130	N5	3-4	1	38
5	88	122	N6	3-4	3	19, 25, 31
6	87	112	N7	3-4	4	17, 22, 32, 58